

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, no claims have been amended. Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 18-21 and 32 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 18-21 and 32 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art (hereinafter "AAPA") in view of Spangler (US 5,547,385) (hereinafter "Spangler"), and further in view of Patrick, Jr. (US 3,767,971) (hereinafter "Patrick, Jr.").

Claims 6, 7, 9 and 10

Claim 6 recites: "... a ground connector fixedly insertable into the printed circuit board, wherein the inserted at least one active connector and the ground connector are electrically connectable to the laser diode driving integrated circuit protruding through the back of the printed circuit board and a protruding portion of the ground connector is longer than a protruding portion of the at one least active connector..." In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Spangler to show that the ground connector is longer than the active pins. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action does not address the technical feature of claim 6 where the **protruding** portion of the ground connector is longer than the **protruding** portion of the at one least active connector.

In Spangler the ground contacts on the alignment posts engage corresponding ground contacts on the mating electrical connector so that the ground contacts of both connectors become engaged before the signal contacts become engaged, i.e., neither the ground contacts nor the signal contacts are protruding. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the feature in Spangler where the ground contacts of the connectors first engage does not suggest making a protruding portion ground connector longer than the active connectors.

This technical feature of claim 6 where the projecting portion of the ground connector is longer than the projecting portions of the active connectors provides that provides that static electricity generated around the laser diode is localized at the ground connector due to its longer projecting portion.

Claims 7, 9 and 10 depend from claim 6 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 18-21 and 32

Claim 18 recites: "...wherein the inserted at least one active connector and the ground connector protrude from the laser diode so as to be electrically connectable to the laser diode driving integrated circuit and the ground connector is at least longer than the at least one active connector and more acutely shaped than the at least one active connector." It is respectfully submitted that this technical feature of claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Claims 19-21 and 32 depend from claim 18 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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